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TWO CURIOUS NUMISMATIC COINCIDENCES

By Eric P. Newman

In the July, 1980 issue of the *Missouri Journal of Numismatics,* Ronald Horstman reported on the use of Civil War Era Missouri Defence Bonds as advertising handbills by Abraham B. Mayer. That article uncovered some interesting numismatic coincidences.

One of these coincidences involves noted numismatist Eric P. Newman's maternal grandfather (Adolph Pfeiffer, 1854-1918) who, in 1881, advertised his drug store business on the back of $1.00 and $3.00 Requisitions for Missouri Defence Bonds.

Adolph Pfeiffer began his business career as a drug clerk in downtown St. Louis in 1872. He graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1874. When he married in 1881, he opened the Bremen Drug Store at the corner of Broadway and Salisbury Streets (3625 N. Broadway) in St. Louis. The Bremen store advertisement indicates that Adolph Pfeiffer's stock included many sundries in addition to prescriptions and medicines.

The second coincidence concerns the Missouri Defence Bonds which were intended for circulation as money in 1861, but they were not received in time to be issued by the Confederate government of Missouri. Abraham B. Mayer, a salvage dealer, bought the sheets of currency as waste paper. Both Abraham B. Mayer and his son Morris printed advertisements for their respective scrap businesses on the currency. Since the advertisements were on the back of genuine unissued paper money, the handbills appealed to the public as a novelty.

The source for the scrapped currency was none other than Adolph Pfeiffer's brother-in-law, Abraham B. Mayer, who bought the sheets of money as waste paper.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CARONDELET, MO. CHARTER #454

The First National Bank of Carondelet voluntarily retired its charter and closed on August 1, 1866 with an outstanding circulation of $25,500 in notes of which $14,889.50 had been redeemed by 1868 according to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, Hugh McCullough, to the President of the United States for his annual message to Congress in 1869. The bank was capitalized at $30,000 and had legal tender deposits of $25,500. The Comptroller of the Currency, H. R. Hulburd, reported $16,640 in circulation returned and destroyed leaving $8,860 of the bank's circulation outstanding as of October 1, 1968.